

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to: i) insert sequence identifiers (thereby complying with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(d)), ii) recite (with more particularity) the previously filed patent applications to which the instant application claims priority, and iii) insert an "Abstract" shortened to 150 words or less (thereby complying with 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b)).

Finally, the Applicants submit (attached to the instant Preliminary Amendment) a hard copy of the "Sequence Listing", filed in Application Serial No. 09/434,870, which is identical to the Sequence Listing in the instant application. The Applicants also file (as a separate document) a "Request Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(e) To Use A Computer Readable Form From Another Application". Applicants, therefore, are compliant with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821-1.825.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at 617.252.3353.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX I
MARKED-UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION'S REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS

The following is a marked-up version of the specification's replacement paragraphs pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b) with markings showing changes made herein to the previous version of record of the specification and claims.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 4, the paragraph beginning on line 29 and ending on line 30 was deleted and replaced with the following paragraph:

Figure 1 (SEQ ID NOS: 1 - 4) shows the alignment of anti-CD40 variable region and human template amino acid sequences.

On the front page of the application, the following paragraph was inserted between the "Title of the Invention" and the "Background of the Invention":

This is a Continuation of copending application(s) 09/434,870, filed on 11/04/99, which claims priority to United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/159,689, filed 10/14/99.

The attached Sequence Listing was inserted, into the specification, as new pages: --63-65--.

IN THE CLAIMS

The pages of claims was renumbered from pages: "63-64" to -- 66-71 --.

IN THE ABSTRACT

The Abstract page was renumbered from page: "65-67" to -- 72 --.

The paragraph beginning (in the application as filed) on page 65, line 2 and ending on page 66 line 25 was deleted and replaced with the following paragraph:

The invention provides a method of conferring donor CDR binding affinity onto an antibody acceptor variable region framework. The invention also provides a method of simultaneously grafting and optimizing the binding affinity of a variable region binding fragment. A method of optimizing the binding affinity of an antibody variable region is also provided.